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Djibouti

Introduction

1. The present national report, like the previous ones, was prepared by the Interministerial Committee for the Preparation and Submission of Reports to Treaty Bodies. Established in 2009, the Committee was reformed in 2017 with a view to expanding its mandate to follow up and implement the recommendations arising from dialogues with treaty bodies and other mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It is made up of 7 people (previously 12) and is supported in each ministry by coordinators responsible for collecting, analysing and making available to the Interministerial Committee the data and statistics of their respective ministries.

2. As a preliminary step in drawing up the report, all the recommendations were categorized by subject in order to facilitate their follow-up and implementation.

3. The Committee held extensive consultations at the national level, including all stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of human rights. The National Human Rights Commission, civil society, the public sector and development partners were among those consulted for this purpose. Lastly, this report was validated at the national level through a series of workshops and round tables.

4. During this cycle, Djibouti received support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Development Programme for justice system support projects and the organization of seminars and workshops.

5. The relevant documents, namely Human Rights Council guidelines, the recommendations from the second cycle, including those that have not been accepted, policy strategies and other measures taken to promote and protect human rights were the subject of a review for which technical assistance from the above-mentioned partners was a decisive advantage.

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6. In order to have a sincere report, which is the basis for constructive dialogue between Djibouti and the Human Rights Council, difficulties have not been glossed over. Along with prospects and solutions, they will be dealt with in the last part of our report.

II. Country background

7. Djibouti lies in the Horn of Africa at the mouth of the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the southern entrance to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. With a surface area of 23,200 km^2, a coastline of 372 km and a maritime area of 7,200 km^2, the country shares borders with Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

8. The landscape of Djibouti is varied. It has a dry desert climate marked by low rainfall and high temperatures. The year includes a cool season and a hot season. Rainfall patterns are very irregular, with extreme differences in annual rainfall (between 50 and 300 mm) sometimes characterized by very heavy rain showers causing torrential flooding of the wadis. The country has experienced years without rain and therefore recurrent periods of drought. There are no permanent watercourses. Wastewater and groundwater are used. The vegetation cover is poor (10,000 ha of arable land). Only about 1,000 ha are cultivated. Such extremely adverse weather conditions constitute a major obstacle for the country, limiting its agricultural production capacities.

9. Located at the crossroads of the African, Arab and Asian worlds, Djibouti enjoys an indisputable geostrategic position at the subregional level. This position has given it greater importance in recent years in the fight against international terrorism and maritime piracy. Several foreign armies are present in its territory.

10. The engagement of Djibouti with the international community has made it possible, among other things, to make one of the world's most important maritime routes secure. However, the region continues to be marked by political instability that gives rise to armed conflicts in neighbouring countries and, consequently, a lack of security at the borders and migration flows that are extremely difficult to manage.

11. **Real population growth**. The most recent census in 2009 put the population of Djibouti at 818,159, but it is thought to have reached 1,015,543 in 2017 given an estimated average population growth rate of 2.8 per cent per year. The male population is 546,260 (53.79 per cent) and the female 469,282 (46.21 per cent). The fertility rate is 2.9 births per women and life expectancy 52.9 years (51.8 years for men and 54.1 years for women). The average size of ordinary households is 6.2 persons.

12. **A favourable economic environment benefiting from the execution of major investment projects**. According to the Central Bank of Djibouti, economic growth remained robust in 2016, at a rate of 6.5 per cent. The share of investment in the gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 44.1 per cent to 60.1 per cent of GDP between 2014 and 2016. The general level of consumer prices fell, with a year-on-year inflation rate of 2.7 per cent in 2015 compared to 3 per cent in 2016.

> The short- and medium-term prospects for the development of the macroeconomic framework, as set by the national authorities and the International Monetary Fund directors, show continued steady economic growth until 2020 (GDP growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent) coupled with inflation brought under control (consumer price index estimated at 3.5 per cent under the effect of the stabilization of food and oil prices).

13. The primary sector (agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing) has been rather marginal until recently, but it has developed and performed well in recent years owing in particular to fishing and the export of livestock to countries of the Arabian Peninsula. The secondary sector (industries, construction and public works, electricity and water) recorded significant growth thanks to major infrastructure projects launched by the authorities of Djibouti. The strong performance was achieved thanks to the growth in the construction and service sectors, the expansion of port operations, the development of transit trade with Ethiopia and the revival of transhipment operations.

It is against this backdrop that laws and regulations and general policy measures, strategies and initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights have been adopted since the submission of the universal periodic review report in 2013. The recommendations from the previous review are being implemented to a very large extent.

III. National legislative measures, policies, strategies and initiatives

National human rights institution

14. The legal framework for the National Human Rights Commission, established pursuant to Decree No. 2008-0103 of 23 April 2008, was strengthened by Act No. 59/AN/14 of 2 July 2014 on the Organization and Functioning of the National Human Rights Commission and Decree No. 2015-210 of 11 July 2015 for its implementation, with a view to bringing the institution into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).

15. Article 2 of the new Act provides for the independence of the institution, together with the imposition of the following prohibition and obligation on other State bodies: "In order to ensure the independence and credibility of the Commission, no State body is authorized to intervene or interfere in the performance of its tasks. The public authorities are to provide it with the necessary assistance and support."

16. The prerogatives now enjoyed by the Commission allow it to:

- Assist the relevant authorities by issuing opinions on all general matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights in Djibouti; its opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports may be published either on its own initiative or at the request of the authority concerned
- Issue warnings about situations where human rights are being violated in the country, propose initiatives to remedy them and, where necessary, give opinions on the Government's positions and reactions and draft reports on the national human rights situation in general or more specific issues
- Call the authorities' attention to measures for the promotion and protection of human rights involving the ratification of or accession to international instruments and their implementation and, where appropriate, bring national legislation into line with the instruments and ensure their effective implementation

17. The strengthening of the institution's material and human resource capacities, which was brought about in particular by a significant increase in its budget (by 130 per cent) and the recruitment of more and better qualified personnel has helped it to become a central element of the human rights protection system and carry out its mandate.

18. Such developments have resulted in a number of achievements, including:

- Handling of some 20 complaints from alleged victims of human rights violations in 2016
- Setting up of an interactive website to provide the public with general information on human rights and to deal with any complaints referred to the Commission
- Carrying out of a number of training and awareness-raising activities for targeted audiences (NGOs, judges, etc.) on human rights in general and on specific themes such as the rights of migrant workers and their families
- Conducting of regular or unannounced visits to places of detention in the country to inquire about the conditions under which persons subject to judicial inquiry procedures and placed in police custody and persons serving prison sentences handed down by the courts are deprived of liberty, while giving particular attention

to the situation of vulnerable persons and making recommendations to the competent authorities with a view to improving the treatment and situation of such persons

Other human rights institutions

19. Traditional legal institutions and others involved in particular areas have also joined in the drive towards greater protection of human rights, as follows:

- Constitution of Djibouti of 1992, already amended on 21 April 2010 with the abolition of the death penalty, which should introduce and define the scope of a quota system judging from the numerous comments recorded in the minutes of the debates in the National Assembly over Act No. 219/18 of 11 January 2017 on the Establishment of a Gender Quota System for Elective Office and the Administration of the State
- Office of the Ombudsman, with the posting of representatives to the regions outside the capital
- National Communications Commission established pursuant to Act No. 114/16 of 21 March 2016 and Decree No. 2016-329 of 8 December 2016 concerning the appointment of its members, which is mainly responsible for regulating the communications sector
- African Peer Review Mechanism
- National Anti-Corruption Commission

National policies and strategies

20. The long-term national strategy known as Djibouti Vision 2035, together with its five-year strategies, referred to as accelerated growth and employment creation strategies, consist of lines of action for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the sector-specific policies that are the driving force behind it:

- National gender policy for the period 2012–2015
- National Strategic Action Plan for Children in Djibouti
- Master Plan for Education 2013–2019
- National Health Development Plan 2009–2019
- National Malnutrition Prevention Strategy adopted in January 2018
- National housing policy and "Zero Slum" programme

Human rights awareness-raising, education and training

21. Many activities aimed at raising public awareness about human rights are regularly scheduled, including:

- Civil society capacity-building workshops on international and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights
- Yearly celebrations and media coverage of Human Rights Day under the auspices of the Office of the President
- Days marking the celebrations of women, children, persons with disabilities and young persons
- Workshops on the rights of people who are often the victims of discrimination (women, children, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees)
- Awareness-raising workshops on birth registration, female genital mutilation and all other forms of gender-based violence

- Workshops on human rights instruments with an emphasis on unratified conventions
- Technical training workshops on mixed migration and training of trainers workshops on combating trafficking in persons

Birth registration

22. Every child is guaranteed the fundamental right to birth registration, and this right is further reaffirmed by article 7 of the Code of Legal Protection of Minors adopted in 2015, which stipulates: "Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents."

23. More than 90 per cent of newborns were registered at birth as of 2016 in Djibouti. In order to achieve the target of 100 per cent, in late 2017, the Government launched a major study on the bottlenecks in the birth registration system.

IV. International instruments and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms

Ratification, special procedures and cooperation with treaty bodies

24. Djibouti has ratified almost all international and regional human rights conventions except the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The country is currently working to fulfil the commitments made during the second cycle of the universal periodic review and ratify both instruments.

25. Cooperation and dialogue with the human rights mechanisms pursued since 2013 has resulted in the following achievements:

- Submission of periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee (in 2013)
- Submission of a periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in August 2017
- Submission of the initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Preparation of the periodic report on the rights of the child is under way

26. Similar cooperation and collaboration is also under way at the regional level, and there is ongoing dialogue with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Technical assistance and international cooperation

27. In order to implement the recommendations from the second cycle in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, in 2014, the Government and the National Human Rights Commission entered into a joint programme with the United Nations system with a workplan containing expected outcomes.

28. More recent action has been undertaken with the launch of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018–2022 by Djibouti and the United Nations system on 19 October 2017.

29. Greater cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners on human rights makes it possible to reinforce legal protection mechanisms and to take action that will improve human rights protection and the living conditions of the whole population.

V. Civil and political rights

Combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and conditions of detention

30. A draft proposal for amendments to the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure is currently under discussion by the Ministry of Justice with the support of technical and financial partners. The proposal falls within the overall context of reform of the entire body of criminal law, such as bills on sentencing for torture and other ill-treatment, the decriminalization of defamation and the protection of the most vulnerable groups, which should lead to more effective human rights protection.

31. The draft has a number of contributions to make:

- A definition of the notion of torture
- More effective prosecution of perpetrators
- Training of law enforcement officers
- Comprehensive care and compensation for victims

32. Pending the completion of this reform, the Government has continued its efforts to prevent and combat human rights violations. In order to improve living conditions in prisons and reduce prison overcrowding, two new prisons, one in the northern town of Obock and the other in the southern city of Dikhil, have been reopened. The reduction of the prison population also depends on the pardons granted each year by the President to prisoners whose sentences are final.

33. The annual budget allocated to the prison services has been increased to improve the daily life of prisoners by facilitating their full and guaranteed access to drinking water and health care and bringing places of detention into line with international standards.

34. Prisoners thus receive three daily meals, and prisoners' visitation rights are observed. Families may also bring them food every day if an inmate so requests.

35. Furthermore, the central prison has an infirmary whose medicines and nursing staff are provided by the Ministry of Health. Only prisoners with serious health problems receive care in the country's major hospitals.

Trafficking in human beings, slavery and similar practices and the rights of migrants, refugees and stateless persons

36. Djibouti is deeply involved with the international community in the fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Following the ratification in 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols, the Government has put in place strategies and policies to fulfil its commitments.

37. A law was adopted on 24 March 2016 amending previous legislation to combat trafficking in persons. The new legislation to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, which incorporates the definition of trafficking in persons given in article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, allows for:

- More effective prevention of and a more appropriate response by the criminal justice system to trafficking in persons
- Protection of the fundamental rights of victims of trafficking
- Development of a comprehensive framework for prevention, protection and assistance for victims and witnesses and the investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of trafficking in persons with a view to ending up with effective and appropriate sanctions

- Contributions to the fight against trafficking in persons at the national and international levels regardless of whether it is linked to organized crime through the promotion of regional and international cooperation in that fight

38. Thanks to activities to raise awareness about this new piece of legislation, victims have come before the courts with the support of associations and firm sentences have been pronounced by the courts against perpetrators of the offences covered under this law.

39. These strategies and policies also contain capacity-building programmes for the judiciary, law enforcement agencies and civil society. Several workshops have thus been held since the law was passed aimed in particular at giving an overall view of those working in the field of migration and of the protection of migrants and at offering a safer alternative option to irregular migration with voluntary return.

40. The Government has at the same time entered into international and regional partnerships, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Office for Migration, OHCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and in cooperation with friendly countries on a bilateral basis, in the organization of seminars on the following themes:

- Legal framework for combating transnational organized crime
- Legislation on combating trafficking in persons
- Prevention, awareness-raising and training with regard to trafficking in human beings
- Identification of victims
- Trauma suffered by victims of trafficking in persons
- Hearing of victims of trafficking in persons
- General principles of investigation in human trafficking cases
- International cooperation in criminal matters
- Assistance for victims of trafficking in persons
- Research and intelligence sharing in investigations of trafficking in persons

Freedom of opinion, freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly

41. The right of citizens to exercise freedom of opinion and expression is guaranteed under article 11 of the Constitution of Djibouti, which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, worship and opinion in accordance with the order established by the law and regulations.

42. Laws have been passed on the following: the statutes of the opposition; the National Communications Commission; and freedom of communication aimed at ensuring the promotion and protection of freedoms of expression, association and assembly.

43. The pluralist nature of our democracy has been bolstered by the introduction of proportionality into the system of elections on a majority basis, which has enabled members from the opposition parties to sit in the National Assembly since the June 2013 elections.

44. The increase in women's participation in development and decision-making through the introduction of a quota system for elected office and appointments to senior government positions has made a contribution to the promotion of the rights and liberties of all segments of society.

45. The National Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring freedom and protection of the press and all mass media in accordance with the law; it also sees to it that ethical rules and codes of conduct are observed by media professionals.

46. The Commission distinguished itself in the most recent 2017 regional elections in exercising its prerogatives to defend a genuine, free and multiparty democracy.

47. Freedom of assembly is guaranteed by law. Public meetings may be freely held, and all that is needed before they can be convened is a simple declaration. Restrictions may be imposed only in accordance with the law. They entail restrictions that are strictly necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedom of others.

Non-discrimination

48. The principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in article 1 (3) of the Constitution, which provides that the State must ensure that all people are equal before the law, without distinction as to origin, race, sex or religion. The State respects all beliefs and that principle governs and guides all public policies. This is regarded as the cardinal rule on which all other rights depend; without losing sight of the need to remain vigilant in order to ensure that this principle is observed everywhere and by everyone, the Government is now working to promote the rights of vulnerable people in order to give them full effect.

49. Existing and pending pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening the rights of such categories of people include:

- Bill on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities
- Bill on the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons
- Act No. 162 of 5 January 2017 on the Reorganization of the State Secretariat for Social Affairs, which is the department responsible for setting priorities to protect the rights of vulnerable persons
- Act No. 159 of 5 January 2017 on the Status of Refugees in the Republic of Djibouti and Decree No. 2017-409 of 7 December 2017, which establishes the procedures for the exercise of the basic rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti

VI. Economic, social and cultural rights

Poverty alleviation

50. The Djibouti 2035 Vision, the Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy (SCAPE) for the period 2015–2019 and the Sustainable Development Goals are the basic instruments that will enable the Government to take appropriate measures to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty in all its forms.

51. The National Social Protection Strategy focuses on the following lines of action:

- Development of a system of food aid aimed primarily at pregnant and breastfeeding women and their children under 2 years of age
- Establishment of a system of cash assistance without conditions for people facing hardship or with no means of support
- Increase in supply in the construction sector and maintenance of small public infrastructure and community facilites combined with vocational training in these areas and financial support for the creation and development of self-employment, crafts and cooperatives and small and medium-sized businesses in the construction and public works sector.

52. During the reporting period, the Government carried out the following actions under the strategy to combat poverty:

- Assistance to cover shortfalls in the family budget that goes to food for households living in poverty through the introduction of cash transactions

- Supply of food and food vouchers for disadvantaged persons (continuation of the food voucher project in partnership with the World Food Programme)
- Continuation of cash transfers targeting destitute students from the regions
- Implementation of various programmes by the Social Development Agency
- Improvement of access to basic services (Balbala, Djebel)
- Preservation of the national heritage involving labour-intensive projects
- Development of solar energy (Yoboki, Dorra, As Ela)
- Extension of social safety nets (Arta, Ali Sabieh)
- Development of the employment-generating mineral industry
- Protection of the environment through the creation of recycling centres in Djibouti City and the regions and urban development

53. In addition, with the support of various donors including the World Bank, several projects are currently under way with the following objectives:

- Rural electrification involving the expansion and increase in power density of electric power distribution systems, with around 9,000 households in Balbala to be connected to the new electricity grid infrastructure, the installation of 790 new streetlights and electrification of the inland regions of Djibouti to be completed by 2019; through this project, the Government aims to achieve full electrification of the country by 2035, with 100 per cent coming from renewable energy sources, and to reduce migration to the cities
- Reduction of urban poverty under the Urban Poverty Reduction Project (PREPUD), under way since 2014, involving the rehabilitation of infrastructure in quartier 7, the largest district of the city of Djibouti
- Strengthening of social safety nets through project management that covers support for the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of programmes and through the implementation of an employment programme to improve household income with a food assistance component
- Alleviation of the problem of thirst that severely affects rural and pastoral populations during the dry season through the Programme for Community Rural Development and Use of Surface Water Resources (PRODERMO) for the period 2012–2017

54. The five-year National Investment Programme, set up in 2014 and financed by four Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates), aims to implement development projects throughout the country and reach disadvantaged populations. The country's five regions and the large districts of the city of Djibouti where deprived segments of the population live are the main targets of the Programme.

Right to education

55. Djibouti has reaffirmed the priority given to basic education in its national education policy since the launch of reforms in 2000 in its second National Education Master Plan covering the period 2010–2019.

56. Universal enrolment in basic education thus remains a key issue in national education policy and strategies. Djibouti has demonstrated its will to put in place inclusive education, in particular through the care of children with special needs, and taken account of the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and the various treaty bodies.

57. The Plan of Action on Education for the period 2014–2016 attests to the importance that the Government attaches to basic education, which receives the largest share of resources allocated to the various levels of education.

58. Primary education has received the highest share of the budget and, as a result, has shown some growth in enrolment. According to the data provided by the education system, between 2013 and 2017, the number of primary schools rose from 156 to 165, or an increase of 6.6 per cent.

59. The gross school enrolment rate increased by 3 per cent over the period 2013–2017, from 78.5 per cent in 2013 to 81.5 per cent in 2017. The percentage of girls enrolled in school is 46 per cent, with little difference between urban and rural areas. The gender parity index in school enrolment is around 0.87.

60. The framework for education is based mainly on the following four pillars:

- Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy for the period 2015–2019
- Education Blueprint for the period 2010–2019 of the Ministry of National and Higher Education
- Plan of Action for the period 2011–2016 of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training
- Strategic Plan for the Development of Technical Education and Vocational Training

61. The reforms undertaken on the basis of the above-mentioned plans are aimed at:

- Meeting the short- and medium-term demands of increasing school enrolment
- Building on the results already achieved in terms of equity
- Overcoming weaknesses in the system of education and vocational training in order to alleviate the medium- and long-term shortage of qualified human resources and ensure the integration and development of younger generations, a priority that will be crucial for the success of the model of growth that calls for new skills and overall increased productivity

62. The major objectives in this context are:

- Increase in school enrolment, with a rise at the pre-primary level of 35 per cent, universalization of access to and completion of primary education and gross enrolment rates of 84 per cent at the primary level, 62 per cent at the middle level and 64 per cent at the secondary level of education by 2019
- Continued progress on gender parity which, at the end of the plan, will be achieved for primary education and will be significantly improved for basic middle and secondary education
- Building on basic skills acquired
- Development and diversification of technical and vocational education and vocational training courses
- Continued strengthening of the running of the education system by requiring results and results-based management
- Education sector strategy that fulfils the requirements of access, equity, quality, effectiveness and relevance

63. In terms of technical education and vocational training, the National Employment Policy sets two objectives:

- Tripling of the proportion of the active population who have received such education (from 10 per cent in 2012 to at least 33 per cent by 2024)
- Integration of all students pursuing technical education or vocational training into the labour market within no more than one year after leaving school

64. The results of the reforms introduced show that:

- Overall school enrolment has increased
- Disparities in access to education related to gender or the parents' social status have been reduced

- Quality of education and the returns on the education system have improved
- Institutional capacities for managing and leading education policies have increased

65. Effective partnerships with parent-teacher associations and the private sector in particular in the running of the education system and management of schools have been maintained. Investment in vocational training has led to better job opportunities in line with the needs of the national economy.

66. The framework for higher education and research is established by:

- Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy for the period 2015–2019
- Education Blueprint for the period 2010–2019 of the Ministry of National and Higher Education
- The action plans for the period 2013–2015 of the Ministry

67. The education sector policy for the period 2015–2019 aims to improve intake capacities and student living conditions and to develop specialized courses (*filières d'excellence*) providing professional experience on a competitive admissions basis in fields such as engineering, business, construction and languages in order to meet the needs of the economy. Similarly, research will contribute to development through applied research programmes focusing on water, energy and mining resources.

68. The first priority for the Ministry of Higher Education is to meet the challenge of increasing the number of students by improving student admissions conditions.

69. Three major actions have been carried out or are in progress:

- Completion of the work on the current campus, which has been up and running since September 2017, and start of work on a second campus
- Establishment of a university restaurant
- Investments in transport in order to facilitate the transport of students

70. The second priority for higher education involves meeting the challenge of quality: in pursuing its principal objective of awarding advanced degrees (bachelor's and master's degrees), the university has made a commitment to preparing holders of diplomas to enter the labour market with skills that will be a vehicle for rapid growth in key sectors.

71. The University of Djibouti will thus be focusing increasingly on the introduction of specialized courses offered on a competitive basis and developed in partnership with renowned foreign universities.

72. For this purpose, the Faculty of Engineering, which was inaugurated in 2013, has been provided with equipment, and several projects geared towards the needs of the economy of Djibouti have been implemented with the establishment of a Faculty of Business, a Faculty of Architecture, a business incubator and a university centre for the study of languages.

73. The third priority involves university research, to which a proactive approach is being taken in order to further the implementation and development and raise the profile of research undertaken by the teaching staff at the University of Djibouti.

74. The following measures will add impetus to this process:

- Development of a compendium of skills
- Establishment of a business-university liaison service in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce
- Establishment of a think tank on postgraduate training in universities; with respect to national research, it is focused on projects involving geothermal science, water resources, and mining and oil resources

Right to health

75. The frame of reference for the right to health adopted by the Government includes:

- Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy for the period 2015–2019
- Health Policy Act No. 48/AN/99/4 L of July 1999
- National Health Development Plan of Djibouti 2013–2019
- Act No. 24/AN/14/7 of 5 February 2014 on the Implementation of a Universal Health Insurance System

76. The general objectives of the five-year health development plan include:

- Improving the organization, management and functioning of the health system
- Ensuring that the coverage, functioning and quality of health services meet the needs of the population
- Providing for adequate funding and the use of financial resources to meet needs
- Promoting and developing human resources according to the needs of the health system
- Improving access, accessibility and rational use of medicines and diagnostic tools of good quality

77. The priorities set in the period from 2015 to 2017 have involved the strengthening of human resources, upgrading of equipment and building of technical capacity for diagnoses and examinations (medical imaging machines, laboratories, explorations etc.) and increases in the number of beds, which have made it possible to meet needs in a significant way.

78. The introduction of a patient-centred health-care approach with medical records now entered into a computer database with the possibility of file sharing has helped improve the quality of care in more and more cases, whether they involve internal medicine or surgery.

79. The universal health insurance scheme covers the entire population of Djibouti and introduces compulsory health insurance for the working population.

80. Under the human resources development plan, the health staff of the Ministry of Health has increased from a total of 2,695 in 2015 to 3,420 in 2017, making it possible for the public health service to organize mobile clinics.

81. The activities of the mobile clinics are organized in the care facilities of the health regions. In the five districts in the interior of the country, 80,640 medical consultations and treatments were provided. Until recently, mobile clinics had been organized by international charitable associations or with the support of a country at the bilateral cooperation level.

82. The significant increase in the number of consultations in medical facilities (by 67.3 per cent between 2015 and 2017), the number of medical imaging examinations and the positive trend in the number of hospitalizations are the direct consequences of increases in medical personnel, the opening of new health-care centres, the purchase of new equipment and technology and other factors.

83. Under the established priority health programmes, services such as rapid screening tests and laboratory tests at community health centres and hospitals continue to be provided as part of the voluntary screening of patients who come to health facilities and in accordance with the new screening guidelines that have been updated to conform with the 2015 World Health Organization (WHO) standards and guidelines. HIV testing in Djibouti has increased from 6,749 persons in 2014 to 12,233 in 2016.

84. The number of persons receiving treatment had increased from 1,500 in 2014 to 2,360 in 2016. Support has also been given to patients receiving treatment to encourage them to adhere to it.

85. With respect to the development of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV infection, there has been a gradual improvement of HIV testing among patients with tuberculosis, from 53 per cent in 2012 to 84 per cent (2,401 cases) in 2015 and to 89 per cent (2,692 cases) in 2016, and the rate of HIV/TB went from 9 per cent in 2014 to 6 per cent in 2015, with 97 per cent of those affected placed on antiretroviral treatment.

86. Strategies and efforts to strengthen the Expanded Programme on Immunization have made it possible to increase immunization coverage and resume immunization activities in certain health facilities.

Right to work, social security and trade union freedoms

87. The National Employment Policy that has been adopted aims to reduce the unemployment rate, which currently stands at 48.4 per cent, to 31 per cent by 2024, or the creation of around 200,000 jobs. It seeks to put in place a strategy to find lasting solutions to the problem of mass unemployment that is greatly affecting the country. This new national employment policy complies with international requirements such as the Millennium Development Goals and the Declaration on Employment of the African Union.

88. The National Employment Policy advances the following broad courses of action:

- Promoting the match between education and employment
- Promoting decent work in the economy
- Promoting effective labour market governance and social security

89. In the area of social protection and assistance to vulnerable populations or populations with special needs, the measures adopted by the Government are aimed in particular at ensuring access to basic services for the poorest, to promote income-generating activities and employment in their communities and social safety nets for the most disadvantaged or vulnerable.

90. On 3 October 2017, the Government submitted three bills to the National Assembly, which were passed by the parliament and promulgated as laws by the President of Djibouti concerning the following:

- Promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities
- Promotion and protection of the rights of older persons
- Establishment of a residential centre for dependent older persons

91. The exercise of trade union freedoms is respected and recognized under the law, including the right to strike.

Right to water

92. The renovation of the drinking water supply system for the city of Djibouti is being carried out by Vinci, namely the rehabilitation of 34 boreholes, work on the division of water supply sectors, leak repairs on existing defective equipment, the laying of 150 km of water pipes and the construction of 6,000 connections, and the supply of drinking water from Ethiopia to Djibouti will make it possible in the very short term to make up for the shortage of drinking water supplies and in the longer term to ensure a sufficient quantity and quality of the country's supply of drinking water in accordance with WHO standards.

93. In rural areas, the public authorities are implementing the rural community development and surface water mobilization programme (PRODERMO) and the water and soil management programme (PROGRES) and are drilling several boreholes in remote areas of the country.

94. The laying of the foundation stone of the future seawater desalination plant on the outskirts of the capital at the beginning of the year promises a brighter future in terms of access to this precious resource.

Rights to housing

95. Access to housing has been a long-standing priority for the Government. In the face of the natural increase in population and rising rents in cities, various housing promotion measures are being taken. Among them is the work launched by the Right to Housing Foundation, which constitutes a genuine social housing project.

96. 2018 was declared the Year of Housing by the Head of Government during his New Year's message to the nation. At the first meeting of the Council of Ministers in 2018, he proposed a road map for achieving the objective of building 2,250 social housing units and developing 3,600 plots in the capital and the inland regions. The mobilization of substantial funding for 5,200 apartments and 15,000 developed plots to be built in the short and medium term was also confirmed.

VII. Rights of specific groups

Rights of the child

97. The National Strategic Action Plan for Children in Djibouti for the period 2011–2015 was updated in 2017 with the aim of creating a protective environment in which all children may exercise their fundamental rights and enjoy equal access to basic services.

98. The protection of children's rights has been strengthened by the adoption of the Code on the Legal Protection of Minors, established under Act No. 95/AN/15/7 L of 18 May 2015, which sets the age of criminal responsibility at 13 years. The Act protects both children who are victims and those in conflict with the law in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child. It provides for alternatives to detention and is thus in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (Havana Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules), etc.

99. The new provisions of the 2014 Family Code (arts. 80–92) governing the arrangements for foster placement (*adoption-protection*), equivalent to simple adoption, have been drafted so as to give a central place to the rights and interests of the child, while also respecting the rights of the child's family of origin and adoptive family.

Women's rights and gender perspectives

100. The principle of non-discrimination is guaranteed by the Constitution. The need to ensure that women contribute to national development on an equal basis with men is recognized at the highest decision-making levels.

101. In partnership with the Ministry for Women and the Family, the Ministry of Justice will shortly launch consultations with civil society and religious authorities on a complete overhaul of the Family Code aimed at bringing it into line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

102. Under Act No. 154 of 9 June 2012, Djibouti is taking various measures to implement its 2011–2021 National Gender Policy, including:

- Establishment of a gender monitoring office, the creation of social welfare centres and community childcare centres, and the organization of family planning awareness workshops, literacy centres and nurseries
- Development of a Ministry of Health and Ministry for Women and the Family joint action plan and a new national strategy on female genital mutilation for the period 2017–2021

103. Legislative reforms have also been introduced to increase women's participation in politics. Djibouti has adopted a law reserving 25 per cent of seats for women in the February 2018 legislative elections. There will be 17 women in the next legislature, versus only 7 today.

104. With regard to women's advancement in the workplace and empowerment, the Government has carried out:

- 2011–2021 National Gender Policy
- A study on the socioeconomic situation of rural women
- A programme on drought resilience and the development of sustainable means of subsistence and purchases of hens, food and veterinary products
- A national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on women and peace
- Two communications strategies on family planning (2013 and 2016)

Vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities and older persons)

105. The entire population of Djibouti now enjoys basic medical coverage under Act No. 24/AN/14/7 of 5 February 2014 on the Establishment of a Universal Health Insurance Scheme. It establishes a health insurance system based on the principles of national solidarity, the right to health and access to health for all. This system is more inclusive and, through its social health assistance programme, offers health-care services to low-income households and to children from such households.

106. The new law on universal health insurance also assists and supports vulnerable people, including women with disabilities, by making free medical treatment and care available to them under the social health insurance programme.

107. In addition, under the 2013–2017 Social Safety Nets Strategy, a social protection system has been set up for vulnerable groups requiring specific measures (persons with disabilities, older persons without a pension, street children and people with no or few qualifications). One of its objectives is to improve the situation of particularly disadvantaged women and children.

108. With regard to social security, Djibouti adopted Decree No. 320 on the Organization of the National Social Security Fund.

109. In addition, the Government has maintained its efforts to combat food insecurity by adopting the National Food Security Programme (2012–2017).

110. There is a committee responsible for working on a plan of action for vulnerable children.

111. In 2015, a children's village was set up in Tadjourah to provide shelter for 100 orphaned and vulnerable children, offering them a sense of community.

112. The Government remains focused on non-discrimination and equality among children. The National Strategic Action Plan for Children in Djibouti sets several courses of action for vulnerable children and children with disabilities.

113. Beginning in 2014, Djibouti has commissioned several studies on children with disabilities. In early 2015, a study was carried out as part of the National Strategic Plan for Childhood in Djibouti for the period 2011–2015. In 2017, a study on children with special needs was carried out in order to develop a multisectoral action plan.

114. The Government's concerns regarding children with disabilities are being addressed by various political actors, including the State Secretariat for Social Affairs, the National Agency for Employment, Training and Vocational Guidance, the Djibouti Social Development Agency and the National Solidarity Fund.

115. These actors are responsible for implementing strategies for persons with disabilities. Emphasis is placed on inclusive education in the 2010–2019 Ministry of National Education Master Plan and the 2011–2016 Plan of Action for Education and Vocational Training in order to promote the integration of children with special educational needs into schools.

116. Between 2012 and 2014, the Government ran campaigns aimed at meeting the objectives for the elimination of avoidable blindness by 2020.

117. In 2013, a school for persons with visual impairments consisting of two classes (first and second grades) was set up to teach the five years of primary education in Braille.

118. Since December 2014, the orthopaedic centre at Balbala hospital has been providing primary health care and community-based rehabilitation. The aim of the programme is to ensure that health-care personnel and users receive appropriate training.

119. The Government has sought to support persons with disabilities in a number of ways. It has provided assistance to organizations of persons with disabilities, set up a microcredit programme to benefit disadvantaged groups, supported the education of children with mental disabilities and offered financial assistance to students with disabilities, who are provided with a monthly stipend of 150,000 Djibouti francs and information technology equipment.

120. In 2014, in order to encourage sportspersons with disabilities to strive for success, the Grand Prize of the Head of State (2 million francs) was awarded to an athlete with disabilities who delivered a remarkable performance at the Paralympic Games in London in 2012.

121. The Government is also committed to ensuring access to information for persons with disabilities and their inclusion at all levels. Journalists have received training in sign language and appear on television news programmes with interpretation for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Examples of positive developments include the campaigns conducted to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the creation of a monthly public television programme on the rights of persons with disabilities.

122. Under a programme financed in full by the Office of the President since November 2017, 60 persons with visual impairments are currently undergoing empowerment and inclusion training. The intention is to expand the programme to all persons in the country with visual impairments. To that end, the Office has engaged an international expert and has made a team of five trainers available to the project.

Rights of migrants, refugees and stateless persons

123. Djibouti is a country of destination and transit for many refugees and migrants. It has faced up to the challenges of population displacement by adopting, for refugees, Act No. 159/AN/16/7 L on the Status of Refugees in the Republic of Djibouti, Decree No. 2017-409/PR/MI on the Rules of Procedure, Organizational Structure and Operation of the Bodies Responsible for Managing Refugee Status in the Republic of Djibouti and Decree No. 2017-410/PR/MI on Procedures for the Exercise of Fundamental Rights by Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Republic of Djibouti.

124. Refugee camps host schools managed by UNHCR in order to safeguard the right to education for refugee children. As guarantors of this right, the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) recently organized a regional conference on refugee education in IGAD member States, which took place in Djibouti from 12 to 14 December 2017, on the topic of regional quality standards for the education and inclusion in national education systems of refugee children in line with the comprehensive refugee response framework, Sustainable Development Goal 4 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union on education.

125. Djibouti makes every effort to reunite children with their families. This particularly concerns children who have been granted asylum and resettled in refugee camps. On

several occasions, groups of families and children have been voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin (Ethiopia and Somalia) with the support of international organizations.

126. In order to better understand and anticipate the needs of refugee children, a study on vulnerable children will be carried out in 2018 to complement the study carried out in 2017.

127. With regard to protection for migrants, the Government adopted Act No. 133/AN/16/7 L on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in 2016. Its purpose is to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The Act seeks to protect the fundamental rights of victims of trafficking through a comprehensive framework for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and suppression of trafficking in persons in all its forms with a view to ensuring effective and appropriate penalties and for victim and witness protection and assistance. It also aims to contribute to efforts to combat trafficking in persons, whether or not it is connected with organized crime, at the national and international levels and promote regional and international cooperation in such efforts.

128. The law thus reinforces the regional cooperation undertaken since 2015 with a view to improving the protection of vulnerable migrant children at risk of trafficking on the way to the Gulf of Aden.

129. With regard to the recommendation to ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, it is worth noting that the Nationality Code of Djibouti provides for measures to protect against statelessness, including the granting of Djibouti nationality to all children born in Djibouti to unknown parents.

VIII. Difficulties and constraints

130. Despite its general policy of promoting and protecting human rights, the Government faces constraints connected with:

- Slow progress in changing attitudes towards women's rights, female genital mutilation, early marriage, etc.
- The weight of tradition that undermines efforts to promote women's and children's rights
- Structural deficiencies in civil society
- Slow progress, in the absence of legislative proposals, in incorporating international conventions into national law
- Persistent unemployment and poverty, despite the considerable efforts of the Government in this area
- Insufficiency of resources for the implementation of specific programmes and projects
- Failure of human rights protection standards to fully take root among the (illiterate or rural) population

Conclusion

131. Since the last report of 4 February 2013, the Government has taken numerous measures to implement the recommendations made as part of the universal periodic review. The considerable efforts made by the Government to protect human rights and continue striving to improve the situation of the country's entire population reflect the importance that the State attaches to its commitments towards its fellow citizens.

132. The action plans and programmes set out in the 2015–2019 Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment will bring about a considerable improvement in the population's standard of living. This national development plan will ensure that development:

- Rests on robust and diversified production bases
- Generates employment and income
- Reduces social and spatial inequalities
- Guarantees universal access to all basic services, promotes a better quality of life and maintains environmental balances over the long term

133. Nevertheless, the Government is aware that many challenges and difficulties remain in terms of the protection and preservation of human rights. In this connection, it will step up its efforts, including by strengthening the country's capacity for forecasting, steering and concerted national development management, and will prioritize efficiency and effectiveness in public actions to ensure significant and sustainable results.

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Compilation on Djibouti

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1–2]

2. In 2013, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Djibouti to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[3] In 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Djibouti to ratify the international human rights treaties to which it was not yet a party, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.[4]

3. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Djibouti to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education and to request technical support as required.[5]

4. The United Nations country team encouraged Djibouti to submit its reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, which had been due since 2012 and 2013 respectively, its report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and its report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, both of which had been due since 2015.[6]

5. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Djibouti to invite the special rapporteurs whose mandates covered economic, social and cultural rights to visit the country.[7]

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6. In 2016, the regional office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) facilitated a two-day training session for law enforcement officials in Djibouti about the rights to peaceful demonstration and assembly and the definition of torture. OHCHR also jointly organized a two-day training session for 20 Djiboutian prison and police officers on due process, the use of force, torture and the treatment of detainees. In October 2016, 30 judges, registrars and prosecutors participated in a training session on human rights in the administration of justice.[8] In November and December 2015, the regional office organized two workshops for government institutions and civil society organizations on follow-up to recommendations from the human rights mechanisms. The same year, the Office provided capacity-building training to the interministerial committee on reporting to human rights mechanisms.[9]

7. The United Nations country team indicated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had recently requested support from OHCHR to establish a standing national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, in line with the technical assistance request made by the Government during the previous review cycle.[10]

III. National human rights framework[11]

8. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights welcomed the adoption of Act No. 55/AN/09/6 L on violence against women, particularly female genital mutilation, and Act No. 174/AN/07/5 L on protection of persons living with HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups.[12] In 2013, the Human Rights Committee welcomed the enactment of Act No. 210/AN/07/5 L on combating trafficking in human beings, and the adoption of the National Strategy for the Integration of Women in Development 2003–2010 and the National Strategic Plan for Children 2011–2015.[13]

9. The same Committee expressed concern that the National Human Rights Commission had limited financial and human capacities and had been perceived as a governmental body rather than an independent institution.[14] The United Nations country team took note of the 2014 legal amendments to make the Commission more compatible with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), providing for its independence from the Government, investigative powers, pluralism among its members and appropriate human and financial resources. The country team encouraged Djibouti to redouble its efforts to ensure that the Commission became fully compliant with the Paris Principles.[15] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that every effort be made so that the Commission obtained A status accreditation.[16]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination

10. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights invited Djibouti to adopt a non-discrimination law that prohibited discrimination on any grounds.[17] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Djibouti include a definition of racial discrimination in its legislation that conformed to the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and classified racial discrimination as an offence.[18]

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights[19]

11. The United Nations country team commended Djibouti for aligning its Accelerated Growth Strategy for Employment Promotion 2015–2019 with the Sustainable Development

Goals, and for its efforts to develop a climate change strategy and a civil code, which would include provisions on reparation for environmental prejudice.[20]

12. While commending the efforts of Djibouti to increase the growth in the gross domestic product resulting from investment in the tertiary sector, the United Nations country team noted that the increase had yet to have an impact in terms of poverty reduction. The relative and absolute national poverty levels had stood at 79.4 per cent and 41.9 per cent in 2012. The country team recommended that Djibouti improve its coordination mechanisms and promote private sector investment through an appropriate legal and institutional framework.[21]

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[22]

13. In December 2015, several special-procedure mandate holders expressed grave concern regarding reports of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by members of the security forces of Djibouti, including the use of live ammunition (as a result of which at least 27 persons had died and 150 had been injured), during clashes between protesters and the authorities following an attempt by the police to break up a religious celebration on the outskirts of Djibouti City.[23] In its reply, Djibouti stated that the police officers had been accosted and that violent riots had then broken out.[24]

14. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about allegations of human rights violations committed by the security forces before and after the 2011 presidential elections and the 2013 legislative elections, particularly excessive use of force against, arbitrary arrest of and torture and ill-treatment of demonstrators. It urged Djibouti to impartially investigate all allegations of serious human rights violations.[25] In 2015, within the follow-up framework, Djibouti stated that no cases of victims of firearm-related incidents had been recorded and that individuals had been arrested on the sidelines of demonstrations in order to maintain public order and prevent any violence.[26]

15. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about reported ill-treatment of detainees by law enforcement personnel and deeply regretted the lack of measures Djibouti had taken to thoroughly investigate and prosecute alleged cases of torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and ill-treatment. It urged Djibouti to establish an independent mechanism to investigate alleged misconduct by law enforcement officials.[27] In 2015, Djibouti stated that the allegations were groundless.[28] In 2016, the Committee regretted that Djibouti continued to deny the reports of ill-treatment of detainees and that it had taken no measures to implement the Committee's recommendations on the matter.[29]

16. The Committee was concerned by poor detention conditions, particularly in Gabode prison. It urged Djibouti to improve the detainees' living conditions and treatment, address overcrowding and establish a confidential mechanism for receiving and processing detainees' complaints.[30]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

17. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about the prevalence of corruption in the public service. It recommended combating corruption and related impunity.[31]

18. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about allegations of politically motivated prosecutions and harassment of defence lawyers. It urged Djibouti to ensure that all legal safeguards were afforded to all and to guarantee the independence of the judiciary.[32]

19. The Committee expressed concern regarding lengthy pretrial detention and the high number of persons held in pretrial detention. It encouraged Djibouti to implement alternatives to detention, to take urgent measures regarding the situation of inmates who had been in pretrial detention for many years, and to ensure that convicted persons were not detained together with pretrial detainees.[33]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[34]

20. UNESCO indicated that Djibouti did not have a freedom of information law, that the media was entirely State-owned and State-run, that defamation remained a crime under articles 425 to 427 of the Penal Code, punishable by a fine and up to one year of imprisonment, and that the only Internet provider was regulated by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.[35]

21. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the provisions of the 1999 Freedom of Communication Act, particularly the restrictive registration requirements for newspapers, the strict age and nationality requirements for press ownership, and the severe penalties for defamation, including imprisonment.[36]

22. UNESCO encouraged Djibouti to foster a more pluralistic and independent media environment, support the review and amendment process of all legislation governing media freedom in Djibouti in order to ensure that it conformed to international standards, decriminalize the defamation law and subsequently incorporate it into the civil code, introduce a freedom of information law, and establish an independent broadcast regulator to award and administer broadcast licences.[37]

23. The United Nations country team commended the creation of the National Communication Commission, which was mandated to regulate radio, television and other broadcasting operators. UNESCO indicated that the Commission had been created in March 2016 by Act No. 114/AN/15/7 L and had the power to fine and suspend the activities of companies and individual journalists.[38]

24. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of widespread threats, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and journalists by the police, security and military authorities. It urged Djibouti to guarantee in law and in practice the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful association and assembly, to release and provide judicial redress and compensation for journalists who had been imprisoned, and to prosecute those who threatened, harassed or intimidated civil society organizations and human rights defenders and journalists.[39] In 2015, within the follow-up framework, Djibouti had stated that there were no political prisoners or prisoners of conscience in the country.[40]

25. In February 2014, several special-procedure mandate holders drew the Government's attention to the situation of human rights defenders, political opponents and members of the press who had been arrested arbitrarily and subjected to judicial harassment. They also made the point that the imposition of penal sanctions, in particular imprisonment, was not considered to be compatible with the effective exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.[41]

26. In December 2015, several special-procedure mandate holders expressed serious concern about reports of the suppression of a peaceful meeting held on 21 December 2015 by the Union for National Salvation at the home of one of its members, during which several participants had been seriously injured. The mandate holders voiced their concern that acts of repression targeting leaders, opposition activists and human rights defenders were on the rise and that the purpose of such acts was to prevent the legitimate exercise of fundamental freedoms, such as the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful association.[42] In its reply, Djibouti indicated that, following the events of 21 December 2015, a warrant had been issued for the arrest of one of the leaders of the Union of National Salvation. A clash had broken out during his arrest, forcing the police to use tear gas and rubber bullets.[43]

27. In February 2016, several special-procedure mandate holders reported that a human rights defender and founding member of the Djibouti League for Human Rights had been sentenced to three months of imprisonment for "public defamation" by the Djibouti Criminal Court for having published a list of missing and deceased persons on 21 December 2015.[44]

28. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about allegations that Djibouti had arrested, harassed and threatened opposition leaders. It urged Djibouti to promote the right of all citizens to participate in public life and exercise their political rights without any

intimidation or harassment.[45] In 2015, within the follow-up framework, Djibouti indicated that the Government remained committed to encouraging the peaceful and non-violent participation of all parties in political debate.[46]

29. In April 2017, two special-procedure mandate holders reported that 19 members of the opposition party Movement for Democratic Renewal and Development had been arrested and held in custody. They took exception to the fact that members of the political opposition continued to be arrested and detained arbitrarily by government forces.[47] Djibouti denied the allegations and stated that the Movement for Democratic Renewal and Development was a political party that had been dissolved by decree on 9 July 2008.[48]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[49]

30. In 2016, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts on the Application on Conventions and Recommendations welcomed the adoption of Act No. 133/AN/16/7 L of 2016 to combat trafficking in persons and the unlawful smuggling of migrants. The Committee noted that the Act strengthened the framework for enforcing the prohibition of trafficking in persons and the assistance and protection granted to victims during the judicial procedure, as well as providing for the creation of a national watchdog body for action to combat trafficking in persons and assimilated practices.[50]

31. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that human trafficking was still being practised. It urged Djibouti to bring to justice all perpetrators of human trafficking and to adequately compensate the victims.[51] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was greatly concerned by the fact that victims of human trafficking were often women and children who were foreign nationals and recommended that Djibouti extend legal and institutional protection to such victims.[52]

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

32. The United Nations country team noted that the Constitution made no reference to economic, social or cultural rights.[53]

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[54]

33. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned by the scale of unemployment, particularly among young persons, women, persons with disabilities and older adults.[55] The United Nations country team commended Djibouti for developing its gender-sensitive National Employment Policy 2014–2024, which also placed strong emphasis on workers' social protection.[56]

34. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern the inadequate enforcement of the regulations governing workers' rights and occupational health and safety. It encouraged Djibouti to grant the labour inspectorate legal status and the power and resources required to fulfil its oversight function, and to develop specific occupational health and safety regulations.[57]

35. The Committee recommended that Djibouti adopt a long-term strategy to protect the rights of workers in the informal economy by expanding the scope of the Labour Code and social protection provisions to the informal economy.[58]

36. The Committee recommended that Djibouti ensure that the Labour Code and trade union rights were enforced in the companies operating in the free trade zone.[59]

37. The Committee noted with concern that Djibouti had halted efforts to establish a minimum wage. It recommended that Djibouti reintroduce a minimum wage and ensure that workers received wages that were above subsistence level.[60]

38. The Committee was concerned about the politicization of trade union activities and the alleged repression of trade union members and striking workers. It encouraged Djibouti to guarantee the free exercise of workers' right to form and join independent unions and to refrain from any act infringing on union rights or the right to strike.[61]

39. The ILO Committee of Experts had previously noted the observations jointly submitted by Education International, the Trade Union of Middle and High School Teachers of Djibouti and the Trade Union of Primary School Teachers in a communication received on 10 September 2014, which denounced the harassment, arbitrary transfers and dismissals of teachers belonging to a trade union. The Committee took note of the Government's reply denying those allegations.[62]

2. Right to social security

40. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that a large portion of the population was not covered by social security. It called on Djibouti to reform the social security system so as to establish universal health-care coverage, and recommended expanding the scope of social security and recovering the outstanding amounts owed to the National Social Security Fund. It recommended that Djibouti ratify the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the Social Policy (Basic Aims and Standards) Convention, 1962 (No. 117) and the Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118).[63]

41. The United Nations country team commended Djibouti for developing its National Safety Net Strategy in 2012. However, it noted that a national social protection policy had yet to be put in place and that the workforce to implement social protection interventions remained inadequate.[64]

3. Right to an adequate standard of living[65]

42. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regretted that poverty reduction strategies had not lowered the incidence of poverty and extreme poverty in Djibouti.[66]

43. The Committee noted with concern that the majority of the population, particularly in rural areas, did not have adequate shelter. It encouraged Djibouti to improve living conditions in slums and shanty towns, and recommended building more public housing and facilitating access to adequate housing in rural areas.[67]

44. The Committee noted with concern that, despite the progress achieved, food insecurity and malnutrition still affected the majority of the population. It recommended that Djibouti ensure the right to food and adopt a multisectoral approach to combat food insecurity and malnutrition.[68]

45. The United Nations country team noted that, despite the steps taken to increase the accessibility and availability of water, water scarcity remained a critical challenge in rural areas.[69] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Djibouti adopt a general water plan and ensure that water was available, accessible and of acceptable quality.[70]

4. Right to health[71]

46. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about inequality in the enjoyment of the right to health, despite the progress made. It urged Djibouti to ensure long-term stable funding for the health-care sector, to improve the coverage of health-care services, and to guarantee basic health-care services for disadvantaged and marginalized groups.[72] Noting the shortage of medicines and the high price of some essential medicines, it recommended ensuring that medicines were affordable.[73]

47. The United Nations country team commended Djibouti for introducing universal insurance coverage, which provided free access to primary health care in rural areas and to several basic services, including antenatal care and vaccinations. However, the country team remained concerned about malnutrition, as stunting among children under 5 continued, with rates reaching over 40 per cent Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah. It was also concerned that vaccination services were not adequately accessible, particularly in rural areas. It noted that a national family planning policy had been developed and was expected to be implemented in the near future.[74]

48. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern the high maternal mortality rate, which resulted, inter alia, from limited access to health-care services, the lack of trained health-care personnel and prenatal care, unsafe abortions and poor knowledge about maternal health. It urged Djibouti to support implementation of the National Health Plan for Mothers, Newborns and Children, and to promote greater access to maternal and reproductive health-care services.[75]

49. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the criminalization of abortion except for therapeutic purposes and about the fact that women who underwent abortion were criminalized and liable to imprisonment. It urged Djibouti to amend its legislation to make provision for additional exceptions, including access to abortion services in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest.[76]

5. Right to education[77]

50. UNESCO recommended that Djibouti incorporate an explicit recognition of the right to education and to non-discrimination in education into its Constitution.[78]

51. The United Nations country team commended Djibouti for developing a new education plan for 2017–2019. However, it noted that the poor quality of teaching and learning remained a challenge due to inadequate teacher training and high dropout rates. It also noted the lack of specific measures for children in nomadic communities and for migrant and street children, who were a significant part of the population that was out of school.[79] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed similar concerns and encouraged Djibouti to develop the education system, promote inclusive education, and invest in teacher training.[80]

52. UNESCO reported that, since 2013, that had been little indication that there had been any improvement in the situation of women and girls in education. It called on Djibouti to launch awareness-raising campaigns and to ensure that the 2017–2019 sectoral plan guaranteed equal access to a quality education for girls and boys and was applied correctly.[81]

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[82]

53. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that a number of provisions in the Family Code still discriminated against women, and that inequality continued between men and women regarding inheritance, marriage, divorce and other family matters. The Committee was also concerned that polygamy remained lawful.[83] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Djibouti to repeal the provisions in the Family Code that discriminated against women and to strengthen the capacity of traditional and religious leaders to speak out against all forms of gender-based discrimination.[84] The United Nations country team encouraged Djibouti to increase efforts to educate and mobilize girls, boys, parents, the media and religious and community leaders in order to change discriminatory social norms, particularly harmful gender stereotypes concerning girls' role in society.[85]

54. The Human Rights Committee encouraged the current work of Djibouti to harmonize interpretations of sharia law with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[86] In 2015, within the follow-up framework, Djibouti stressed the difficulty of bringing the interpretations of sharia law into line with the Covenant, since the population was not prepared to compromise regarding Islamic values.[87]

55. The Committee noted with regret the continuing reports of gender-based violence against women and harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation, and was alarmed that 93 per cent of women of childbearing age had undergone that practice.[88] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern that, even though traditional harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation were banned by the Family Code and the Criminal Code, those practices continued and were firmly entrenched in rural and nomadic communities.[89] The Human Rights Committee

urged Djibouti to eradicate such harmful practices through the application of the criminal law and to organize awareness-raising campaigns to change traditional attitudes that were detrimental to the enjoyment by women of their human rights.[90] In 2015, within the follow-up framework, Djibouti indicated that the practice of female genital mutilation was declining[91] and that efforts were being made to raise awareness and to apply criminal law.[92] The United Nations country team commended Djibouti for its commitment in 2017 to developing a five-year strategy to end female genital mutilation. It encouraged Djibouti to step up the implementation of the strategy, to pay particular attention to eliminating the least severe form of such mutilation, known as Sunna, and to ensure systematic data collection to monitor results.[93]

56. The Human Rights Committee urged Djibouti to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women against domestic violence and to guarantee that cases of domestic violence and marital rape were thoroughly investigated and prosecuted.[94]

57. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Djibouti put an end to the impunity enjoyed by certain military figures who had engaged in the systematic rape of Afar women during and after the conflict.[95]

58. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that the National Gender Policy 2011–2021 include more ambitious quotas for the equal participation of men and women in political life and in public service.[96]

59. The Committee was concerned that women were disproportionately affected by unemployment. It recommended that Djibouti ensure that the National Gender Policy 2011–2021 removed the obstacles to the equal participation of women in the formal labour market and included adult literacy campaigns for women along with the promotion of income-generating activities.[97]

2. Children[98]

60. The United Nations country team indicated that more remained to be done to end early marriage. It commended the commitment of Djibouti to revising the Family Code and encouraged it to do so in order to provide adequate protection to minors who got married following an unwanted pregnancy, and to meet the crucial need to end child marriage.[99]

61. The ILO Committee of Experts urged the Government to take effective and time-bound measures to remove children from prostitution, and to ensure their rehabilitation and social integration.[100] The Human Rights Committee urged Djibouti to combat violence against and sexual abuse of children, which remained prevalent, by prosecuting and sanctioning those responsible.[101]

62. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called on Djibouti to provide the large number of children living or working on the street with access to shelter, education and health care and to reintegrate them into society and the school system.[102]

63. The Human Rights Committee urged Djibouti to put an end to corporal punishment of children in all settings and to encourage non-violent forms of discipline.[103]

64. Despite the steps Djibouti had taken regarding its juvenile justice system, the Committee was concerned by allegations of sexual violence against juvenile offenders in prisons. It urged Djibouti to strengthen the juvenile justice system, to separate juvenile offenders from adults, to promote alternative sanctions to imprisonment, and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for sexual violence against juvenile detainees.[104] The United Nations country team commended the adoption of the 2015 Child Protection Code and encouraged Djibouti to take measures towards its implementation, including by putting in place by-laws and child-friendly procedural safeguards, as well as developing standard operating procedures or referral pathways to enforce provisions on alternative measures to detention.[105]

3. Persons with disabilities[106]

65. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Djibouti adopt legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities, develop a national plan

for their economic and social inclusion and increase its efforts to make public services accessible to them.[107]

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples

66. The same Committee regretted that Djibouti did not specifically recognize the rights of tribal peoples, despite the coexistence of several tribes in its territory. It recommended that Djibouti ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).[108]

67. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Djibouti ensure that all communities and regions were represented equally in government decision-making bodies and that all ethnic groups were involved in political and public affairs.[109]

68. The Committee expressed concern that nomads, migrants and persons living in remote and rural areas had limited access to water, education and health care. It recommended that Djibouti ensure that certain ethnic groups and regions were not marginalized and that they were included in the process of implementing its development policies and programmes.[110]

69. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that drought had driven some nomadic communities to abandon their way of life based on seasonal migration.[111]

70. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination welcomed the measures taken to promote the Somali and Afar languages and cultures but expressed concern that those languages had not yet been incorporated into school curricula or in the work of the civil service or the courts.[112] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regretted that the Somali and Afar languages had no legal status in Djibouti. It recommended that Djibouti grant those languages legal status.[113]

71. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern regarding the lack of measures to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between different ethnic groups, in particular the Afar people and the Somali-Issa people, and recommended that Djibouti promote national reconciliation.[114]

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[115]

72. The United Nations country team noted that Djibouti continued to be a transit area for migrants, including significant numbers of accompanied minors, who were aiming to reach Gulf States. Many such minors who were unable or unwilling to return to their countries of origin ended up living on the streets, where they were vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. As they did not usually have birth certificates, they were unable to access formal education and other social services. The country team recommended that Djibouti ensure that unaccompanied migrant children had access to adequate social and protection services, including by integrating them into existing schemes.[116]

73. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that the National Refugee Law, promulgated on 5 January 2017, ensured a favourable protection environment for refugees and enabled them to enjoy fundamental rights, including access to services and to education, employment and naturalization.[117]

74. UNHCR noted that Djibouti maintained an open door policy and continued to offer protection and asylum to refugees and asylum seekers. However, it recommended that Djibouti reopen the Loyada border so as to allow asylum seekers to enter the territory without harassment and in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement.[118]

75. While the number of cases decided by the National Eligibility Committee had risen, UNHCR indicated that there remained a backlog of 8,578 asylum claims. It recommended that Djibouti increase the number of Committee hearings in order to speed up the refugee status determination process and clear the backlog of pending asylum claims. It also recommended that Djibouti develop and implement an appeal procedure that was in line with international standards.[119]

76. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that the excessive length of the asylum procedure might put asylum seekers at risk of refoulement.[120] In 2015, within the follow-up framework, Djibouti indicated that the Government did not expel or repatriate persons to countries where their lives or freedom might be at risk.[121]

77. The Committee was concerned about reported cases of sexual violence in refugee camps. It urged Djibouti to strengthen its mechanisms to prevent and prosecute sexual and gender-based violence, including by ensuring access to a confidential reporting mechanism and mobile courts.[122] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Djibouti reduce overcrowding in refugee camps, which led to increased sexual violence and child abuse in the camps, and adopt measures to provide legal assistance to victims.[123]

78. While welcoming the issuance since July 2013 of birth certificates to children born in refugee camps, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that approximately one quarter of births in Djibouti were not registered, including those of refugee children born outside refugee camps.[124] UNHCR noted that refugees residing in urban areas had to initiate the birth registration process and cover the costs themselves, and that many refugees in Djibouti city were unaware of that and unable to afford the registration fee.[125]

79. UNHCR noted that, at the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held in 2016, Djibouti had acknowledged the importance of providing education for refugees and including refugees in its national health-care and insurance systems. As a result, the Ministry of Education had taken over responsibility for education in the refugee camps. UNHCR recommended that Djibouti continue to integrate refugees and asylum-seeking children into the national curricula at all levels, regardless of their ability to pay for or access official birth registration documents.[126]

80. The United Nations country team recommended that Djibouti fully integrate refugees and asylum seekers into the national health system, and improve the quality of the health services to which they had access and the medical equipment and facilities in the camp-based health centres.[127]

6. Stateless persons

81. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that under the Nationality Code, children born to foreign parents might end up stateless. It called on Djibouti to revise the Code so that all children born in its territory could obtain Djiboutian nationality at birth.[128]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Djibouti will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/DJIndex.aspx.
[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.1–143.19, 143.49, 143.54–143.58, 144.1 and 144.7–144.10.
[3] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 40.
[4] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 32. See also United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Djibouti, p. 16.
[5] UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Djibouti, p. 5.
[6] United Nations country team submission, pp. 5 and 7.
[7] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 41.
[8] OHCHR, "OHCHR in the field: Africa", in *OHCHR Report 2016*, pp. 167–168.
[9] OHCHR, "OHCHR in the field: Africa", in *OHCHR Report 2015*, p. 149.
[10] United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
[11] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.20–143.40, 143.45 and 143.51–143.53.
[12] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 5 (a)–(b). See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para 3 (c).
[13] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 3 (b) and (e)–(f). See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 4 (f).
[14] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 6. See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 10, and E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 7.

[15] United Nations country team submission, pp. 1 and 3. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 6, and CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 11.
[16] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 11.
[17] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 10. See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 8.
[18] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 9.
[19] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/24/10, para. 143.44.
[20] United Nations country team submission, p. 13.
[21] Ibid., pp. 13–14.
[22] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.100–143.107 and 145.6.
[23] Communication DJI 2/2015, p. 5. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=13217.
[24] Replies of Djibouti dated 11 January 2016, p. 2. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadFile?gId=61490.
[25] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 15.
[26] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, paras. 59–60.
[27] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 11.
[28] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 44, and CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.2, para. 9.
[29] Letters dated 15 April and 16 August 2016 from the Human Rights Committee addressed to the Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/DJI/INT_CCPR_FUL_DJI_23628_F.pdf and http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/DJI/INT_CCPR_FCO_DJI_24964_F.pdf.
[30] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 13. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, paras. 54 and 58, CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.2, para. 13, and letters dated 15 April and 16 August 2016 from the Human Rights Committee to the Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.
[31] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 9.
[32] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 17.
[33] Ibid., para. 16. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, paras. 64–65.
[34] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.46–143.47, 143.110–143.115, 144.11–144.12 and 145.1–145.6.
[35] UNESCO submission, p. 2. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
[36] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 12. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
[37] UNESCO submission, pp. 5–6. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 12, and United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
[38] UNESCO submission, p. 2.
[39] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 12.
[40] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.2, paras. 22–23.
[41] DJI 1/2014, p. 5. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=15079. In its replies dated 11 January 2016, p. 3, Djibouti stated that it had not received that communication. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadFile?gId=61490.
[42] DJI 2/2015.
[43] Replies of Djibouti dated 11 January 2016, p. 2.
[44] DJI 1/2016, p. 2. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=14781.
[45] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 18.
[46] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 70.
[47] DJI 1/2017, p. 1. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23073. See also DJI 1/2014, DJI 1/2015, the replies of Djibouti dated 22 October 2015, DJI 2/2015, and the replies of Djibouti dated 11 January 2016. Available from https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TmSearch/Results.
[48] Replies of Djibouti dated 1 May 2017, p. 5. Available at https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadFile?gId=64357.
[49] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.42–143.43, 143.47, 143.76 and 143.94–143.99.
[50] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3285886. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 22, and CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 26.
[51] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 22. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 86, and CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, paras. 26–27.

[52] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, paras. 26–27.
[53] United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
[54] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/24/10, para. 143.116.
[55] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 15.
[56] United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
[57] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 16.
[58] Ibid., para. 19 (a).
[59] Ibid., para. 18.
[60] Ibid., para. 17.
[61] Ibid., para. 20. See also www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3296822.
[62] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3296822. See also ILO, GB.323/INS/9, paras. 337–358.
[63] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 21.
[64] United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
[65] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.117 and 143.139–143.146.
[66] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 25.
[67] Ibid., para. 26.
[68] Ibid., para. 27. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
[69] United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
[70] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 28.
[71] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.119–143.123.
[72] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 30.
[73] Ibid., para. 31.
[74] United Nations country team submission, pp. 10–11.
[75] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 32.
[76] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 9.
[77] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.120 and 143.124–143.136.
[78] UNESCO submission, p. 4.
[79] United Nations country team submission, pp. 11–12. See also E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, paras. 34–35.
[80] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, paras. 34–35.
[81] UNESCO submission, pp. 4–5.
[82] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.41, 143.59–143.71, 143.74–143.93, 143.109 and 144.2–144.6.
[83] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 7. See also E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 13.
[84] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 13 (a) and (c). See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 7.
[85] United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
[86] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 7.
[87] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 17.
[88] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 8.
[89] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 20. See also E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 13.
[90] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, paras. 7–8. See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 21, and E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 13 (b).
[91] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 18.
[92] Ibid., para. 22.
[93] United Nations country team submission, pp. 4–5.
[94] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 10. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 41, and CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.2, paras. 1 and 7. See also the letters dated 15 April and 16 August 2016 from the Human Rights Committee to the Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.
[95] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 31 (b).
[96] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 14 (a).
[97] Ibid., para. 14.
[98] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.72–143.75 and 143.108.
[99] United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
[100] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3286350.
[101] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 21 (b).
[102] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 22. See also www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3286350.
[103] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 14.
[104] Ibid., para. 19. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 76.
[105] United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
[106] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.74–143.75.

[107] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 11.
[108] Ibid., para. 36.
[109] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 17.
[110] Ibid., paras. 18–19.
[111] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 36.
[112] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 24.
[113] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 37.
[114] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, paras. 30–31(b).
[115] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/10, paras. 143.137–143.138.
[116] United Nations country team submission, pp. 14 and 16.
[117] UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Djibouti, p. 1.
[118] Ibid., p. 3. See also United Nations country team submission, pp. 15 and 17, and CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 20.
[119] UNHCR submission, p. 2. See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 23, and E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 12.
[120] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 20. See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 22.
[121] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1/Add.1, para. 83.
[122] See CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 20. See also CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 22.
[123] See CERD/C/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 23.
[124] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, paras. 5 (h) and 23. See also CCPR/C/DJI/CO/1, para. 20.
[125] UNHCR submission, p. 2.
[126] Ibid., pp. 1–2. See also United Nations country team submission, pp. 12–13.
[127] United Nations country team submission, p. 11. See also UNHCR submission, p. 3.
[128] See E/C.12/DJI/CO/1-2, para. 24.